GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3985
ANSWERED ON:20.08.2001
TELEPHONE FACILITIES IN VILLAGES IN WEST BENGAL
SUNIL KHAN

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages having/not yet having telephone facility in West Bengal particularly Dhabani as on July 31, 2001;

(b) the time by which all the villages are likely to be provided with such facility;

(c) whether the West Bengal Telecom Circle has received any request for providing continuous telephone service from Amar Kanan telephone exchange;

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;

(e) the steps taken/ being taken by the Government thereon and to make said exchange functional;

(f) whether the Government propose to set up Consumer Customer Centre at Panagarh telephone exchange; and
(g) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR)

(a) As on date, in West Bengal, 23,898 villages are having telephone facility and 14,439 villages are without telecom facility .Village Dhabhani has not been provided telephone facility as on date.

(b) All the villages are planned to be provided with telephone facility by 2002.

(c) to (e): Yes, Sir. Amar Kanan exchange has since been connected with optical fibre link resulting in better and reliable telephone service.

(f) & (g): Panagarh is a 2000 lines exchange housed in a rented building. There is no extra space for starting a customer service centre. However, a departmental building has been constructed and it is planned to shift Panagarh exchange to the new building by March, 2002. A customer service centre is planned in the new premises.